My Story
How did I get to where I am

Edna Jones

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Our Stories
Online Undergraduate Resource Fair for the Advancement in Academia of Marginalized Mathematicians (OURFA\textsuperscript{2}M\textsuperscript{2})
December 19, 2020
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology (RHIT)

- Started as civil engineering major in 2011
- Switched to math by end of freshman year
  - Like proving things
- Supportive environment
- Graduated in fall of 2015

My Story
Pre-graduate school experiences

Teaching

- TA/Grader for the Departments of Computer Science & Software Engineering and Mathematics at RHIT (on & off 2011–2016)
- Counselor at the Ross Mathematics Program (Summer 2016)
Pre-graduate school experiences

Teaching

- TA/Grader for the Departments of Computer Science & Software Engineering and Mathematics at RHIT (on & off 2011–2016)
- Counselor at the Ross Mathematics Program (Summer 2016)

Software engineering internship at Raytheon (Summer 2013)

- Confirmed that I didn’t want to be a software engineer
Pre-graduate school experiences

Teaching
- TA/Grader for the Departments of Computer Science & Software Engineering and Mathematics at RHIT (on & off 2011–2016)
- Counselor at the Ross Mathematics Program (Summer 2016)

Software engineering internship at Raytheon (Summer 2013)
- Confirmed that I didn’t want to be a software engineer

Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REUs)
- Texas A&M University (Summer 2014)
  - Confirmed that I like number theory
  - Discovered that I don’t like research under pressure
- Auburn University (Summer 2015)
  - Discovered research could be fun
Graduate experiences

- 5th year in mathematics Ph.D. program

Edna Jones
My Story
Graduate experiences

- 5th year in mathematics Ph.D. program
- Teaching mathematics & mentoring students
  - Instructor and TA for Rutgers courses
  - Rutgers Math Teaching Group

Edna Jones  My Story
Graduate experiences

5th year in mathematics Ph.D. program
Teaching mathematics & mentoring students
  - Instructor and TA for Rutgers courses
  - Rutgers Math Teaching Group
Math outreach
  - Math Teachers’ Circles (on & off since 2019)
  - Julia Robinson Mathematics Festival (JRMF) (Spring & Summer 2020)
  - Math Circles (Fall 2020)
How did I go about choosing a graduate school?

Two main criteria:

1. Friendly, supportive atmosphere

Rankings (e.g., U.S. News & World Report) help but don't tell the whole story.

Finding information:
- Look at programs' websites.
- Talk to graduate students, professors, staff, etc., from a variety of backgrounds and schools.

Edna Jones
My Story
How did I go about choosing a graduate school?

Two main criteria:

1. Friendly, supportive atmosphere
2. Good number theory program
   - Rankings (e.g., U.S. News & World Report) help but don’t tell the whole story

Edna Jones
My Story
How did I go about choosing a graduate school?

Two main criteria:

1. Friendly, supportive atmosphere
2. Good number theory program
   - Rankings (e.g., U.S. News & World Report) help but don’t tell the whole story

Finding information:

- Look at programs’ websites.
How did I go about choosing a graduate school?

Two main criteria:

1. Friendly, supportive atmosphere
2. Good number theory program
   - Rankings (e.g., U.S. News & World Report) help but don’t tell the whole story

Finding information:

- Look at programs’ websites.
- Talk to graduate students, professors, staff, etc., from a variety of backgrounds and schools.
Some questions concerning graduate school environment

More basic questions:

- How is the graduate program structured?
- How are students prepared and supported to teach effectively?
- How are students mentored and advised?
- Is there an AWM chapter or some other similar group?
- Are there social events or graduate student seminars?
- What percentage of graduate students finish their Ph.D.s?
Some questions concerning graduate school environment

More basic questions:

- How is the graduate program structured?
- How are students prepared and supported to teach effectively?
- How are students mentored and advised?
- Is there an AWM chapter or some other similar group?
- Are there social events or graduate student seminars?
- What percentage of graduate students finish their Ph.D.s?

More difficult questions:

- To graduate students, what do you like and what do you dislike about your graduate program? Do you feel like you are part of a community in your graduate program?
- What do you know about other graduate programs?
Thank you for listening!